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THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ESTONIA AND LATVIA

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Vitavas SRIVIHOK (Thailand)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 68th plenary meeting, on 20 November 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "The situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item jointly with item 97 (b) and (c) at its 47th to 59th meetings, from 24 November to 4 December 1992. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/47/SR.47-59).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 1 December 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/748);

(b) Letter dated 1 December 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/47/14).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/47/L.52

4. At the 53rd meeting, on 2 December, the Chairman introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/47/L.52) entitled "The situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia".

5. At its 56th meeting, on 3 December, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

6. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and the International Covenants on Human Rights, 2/

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Being convinced that respect for human rights is an inalienable component of maintaining and promoting good-neighbourly relations between States,

Taking into account the complaint of alleged violations of human rights with respect to the Russian-speaking population in Estonia and Latvia,

Noting the conclusions and recommendations made by the United Nations fact-finding mission that visited Riga in October 1992 at the invitation of the Government of Latvia,

1. Notes with concern the existence of certain problems which involve large groups of population in Estonia and Latvia;

2. Welcomes the cooperation that the Government of Latvia has extended to the United Nations fact-finding mission;

3. Also welcomes the invitation of the Government of Estonia to receive a similar United Nations fact-finding mission and its intention to extend to it its cooperation;

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

4. Calls upon the States concerned to intensify their efforts on the bilateral level aimed at resolving concerns with regard to the situation of the Russian-speaking population on the basis of generally accepted norms of international law in the field of human rights;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to keep Member States informed of the progress in the field of human rights in Estonia and Latvia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session under the item entitled "Situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia".